

**Minutes of the City of Bloomington
Commission on the Status of Black Males
Monday, June 13, 2005**

Members present: Larry Brown, David Hummons, Cedric Harris, Jim Sims, Genny Williamson, **Guests:** Aniko Bahr, MCCSC and Bev Smith, HR Associate, MCCSC. **Staff:** Craig Brenner, Liaison, City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources Department.

2. Request for Additional Agenda Items: None.

3. Approval of the Minutes: May 11, 2005 minutes approved.

3A. Bev Smith will replace **Aniko Bahr** as the MCCSC representative to the Commission. Aniko is leaving her position as Director of Multicultural Education and Services for MCCSC, and Bev will be assuming some of Aniko's responsibilities. Aniko brought copies of analysis of the MCCSC discipline data done by Russ Skiba's graduate assistant.

3B. The City of Bloomington's Ninth Street Park will be renamed Rev. Ernest D. Butler Park. Jim was selected to serve as a speaker at the park renaming and dedication ceremony, which will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 26, 2005.

3C. Jim Sims presented the Commission with his resignation letter as member and Chairperson of the Commission.

4A. MCCSC Human Understanding and Diversity Forum

Forum meeting held June 8 and the next one is June 15. There is a concern of inadequate parent involvement. At last meeting Paulette suggested going out to the people, so there will be Commission presence at the Juneteenth celebration on June 25th and then at the Soul Food Picnic in September.

David: suggests talking to at risk and non-at risk students this summer. **Larry:** it will be hard to get parents to come out on a summer evening. **Bev:** a focus group with students is important. **Genny:** for a survey, there should be 2 open-ended questions with a statement asking if parent would like to add name to email list or something of this nature. **Bev:** there will be a back-to-school rally in August. **Jim:** NAACP has ideas about this also.

David: The CSBM could support the Diversity Forum recommendations by highlighting 2-3 strongly. **Genny:** proposes having advocates for parents in the MCCSC system as a supplementary recommendation, i.e. ombudsman. **Jim:** commented that he doesn't see this as a possibility. A mediator can keep all interactions calmer. The option ought to be there. **Bev:** mediation may not be the best term. For a parent and child, it is a lonely place. Having someone there can be comforting. **Jim:** there is no community outcry. **Genny:** the system is hard particularly for poor families and they don't have voice – particularly white kids. **David:** the community has to buy into the concept and there needs to be collaboration among different groups to solve these kinds of problems.

5. Monroe Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition Report

William is still working on this. If we are partnering with any grant, then it must also target Black Males. **David:** talked to Dr. Edwin Marshall, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the IU Optometry School, and he has influences on the National Public Health scene. If we were to apply for and receive a grant, then we could give it to the cessation group and they would administer it.

6. Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males

The annual National Conference—State Conference is being planned for October 26-28 at the Indianapolis Hilton. It is titled: *The 7th Annual African-American Male National Conference: Education vs. Incarceration*. Registration information can be obtained at www.IN.gov/icssbm, or contact the State Commission: (317) 234-1389 or Steve Ingram@fssa.in.gov

David: suggests we do a workshop at the national conference outlining and highlighting what we do here with the Bloomington Commission.

7. Goals for 2005 Based Upon Fall Planning Retreat

We discussed the many things the commission is addressing. Genny suggested that at the next meeting we lay out what we want to do for the next year.

8. Possible Recognition of Black Males in the Schools

Genny and Paulette have a template.

9. 2005 Meeting Dates and Times

Next meeting is July 11th from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at City Hall at Showers, 401 N. Morton Street.

Due to vacations and other time conflicts, the Commission decided not to hold an August meeting this year.

10. Adjournment

David: There are people on the forum board who are working very hard – especially

Bev Smith: It is not easy work. How do we keep the momentum going?

Genny and the group: Thanks to **Jim** for all of the hard work he has devoted to this commission.